



BLACK'S FORT MESSENGER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA

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Public Works—Clean and Green!



Town Council			
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<i>Lowe, Vice Mayor - Jason Berry</i>			
<i>-Rick Humphreys-Bob Howard</i>			
Administration			
Town Manager Greg Kelly			
Garrett Jackson.....	Asst Town Manager / Director of Planning	Town Clerk	Cecile Rosenbaum
Mark Godbey.....	Finance Director	Police Chief	Tony Sullivan
Deb Icenhour.....	Town Attorney		

2012 Town Council Elections

It's Town Election time! Below, in alphabetical order, meet the candidates and hear why they want to represent you!



Councilman Jason Berry is seeking re-election for a second term on the Abingdon Town Council. His campaign focuses on development of Abingdon in three main areas - 1) Economic Development Downtown, 2) Maintain our Quality of Life and 3) Improve roads and sidewalks in town.

In addition, Mr. Berry has the following Policy Initiatives & Goals: Continue working to develop a multi-sport athletic complex for the youth of our community; Create an Emergency Management Committee to address concerns in our town and establish an early alert system to warn citizens of severe weather. Focus on economic development with an emphasis of attracting businesses downtown. Continue efforts with VDOT to improve traffic flow and road conditions at exits 17 and 19. Ensure full transparency of town resources and open government for taxpayers.

Councilman Berry has been honored to serve the citizens of his hometown and on May 1st he asks for their support again. To learn more about Jason visit: www.facebook.com/councilmanjasonberry

Mr. Richard Macbeth is seeking election to the Abingdon Town Council.

After retiring from IBM as a Senior IT Security Consultant along with over 40 years in the Military, it was time to give back to my community. After learning to walk and talk again after a bad auto accident in early 2007, I went to work to continue to improve traffic problems coming out of Southview near Exit 19. Working with the Town, County and VDOT on this, running into road blocks from all areas, I learned of the lack of communication between the County and the Town, especially when it came to communicating with people who live in our community.

When I go door to door and talk about some of the issues that are really bothering people around Abingdon they mention Jobs, waste of their Tax funds, sewer system cost, traffic flow problems, and a safe place for their family and friends to play sports after school.

With my 36 years working with boys as a leader in the Boy Scouts and my strong family and religious background, I believe in strong community involvement and have a commitment to getting people to work together to come to agreements. I will work to take on these issues where I can and work with others to continue to grow Abingdon into a place where we want to stay and work, bring up our families and have jobs for our kids when they finish school.



I ask you for your support and Vote on Tuesday May 1st. Come out and take part in our Town!!

Mayor Ed Morgan is seeking re-election to the Abingdon Town Council.

He has served as the Mayor since July 2010. He has been asked what he is most proud of as a council member. There are obvious things, such as Heartwood and the Muster Grounds, but there are others that are of perhaps greater importance. First of all, the Town of Abingdon is fiscally sound. This is evident through the Town's AAA bond rating and low property taxes. Secondly, we have a Council that works well together and shares a common focus of improving life in Abingdon. Despite tough economic times, Abingdon is prosperous and growing, he adds.

It is his hope that in the future, we will see the King School of Medicine and Health Sciences come to fruition and develop a sports complex to serve our youth and that Abingdon will continue to be a great place to live.



Mayor Morgan asks for your support on May 1st.

People You Should Know Employee Spotlight



Debbie Atkins-Vance, Director of Human Resources

An Abingdon native, Debbie just recently took the position of Director of Human Resources . Prior to coming to the Town in January 2012, she served the Commonwealth as an Associate Engineer for 4 years with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and then the remaining 11 years in Human Resources with VDOT. As Director of Human Resources, Debbie oversees such things as employee retirement and health benefits and deals with other personnel issues as they arise. She holds a Masters degree from George Mason University, in Public Policy. Debbie lives in Abingdon with her husband and pet Chihuahua, where she enjoys gardening.

2011 Employees of the Year Awards!!!



The following individuals were named Employee of the Year for 2011 (from left to right: Ms. Tammy Baldwin—Finance Department Outstanding Employee of the Year; Mr. Daniel Kidd—Information Technology; Ms Sarita Moore—Wolf Creek Water Reclamation Facility; Investigator Chris Jennings—Abingdon Police Department; Ms. Melisha Wynne—Aquatics Director, Parks and Recreation. These are pictured with Town Manager Greg Kelly and the Abingdon Town Council at the March 2012 Town Council meeting)

Abingdon Shamrock 4-miler

On Friday, March 16th, 2012, nearly 600 runners left Remsburg Drive for a 4 mile trek through town in the first annual Shamrock 4miler. The race was sponsored by We Run Events LLC., The Town of Abingdon and Johnston Memorial Hospital. After the race runners enjoyed free food and drinks at the Bonefire Smokehouse



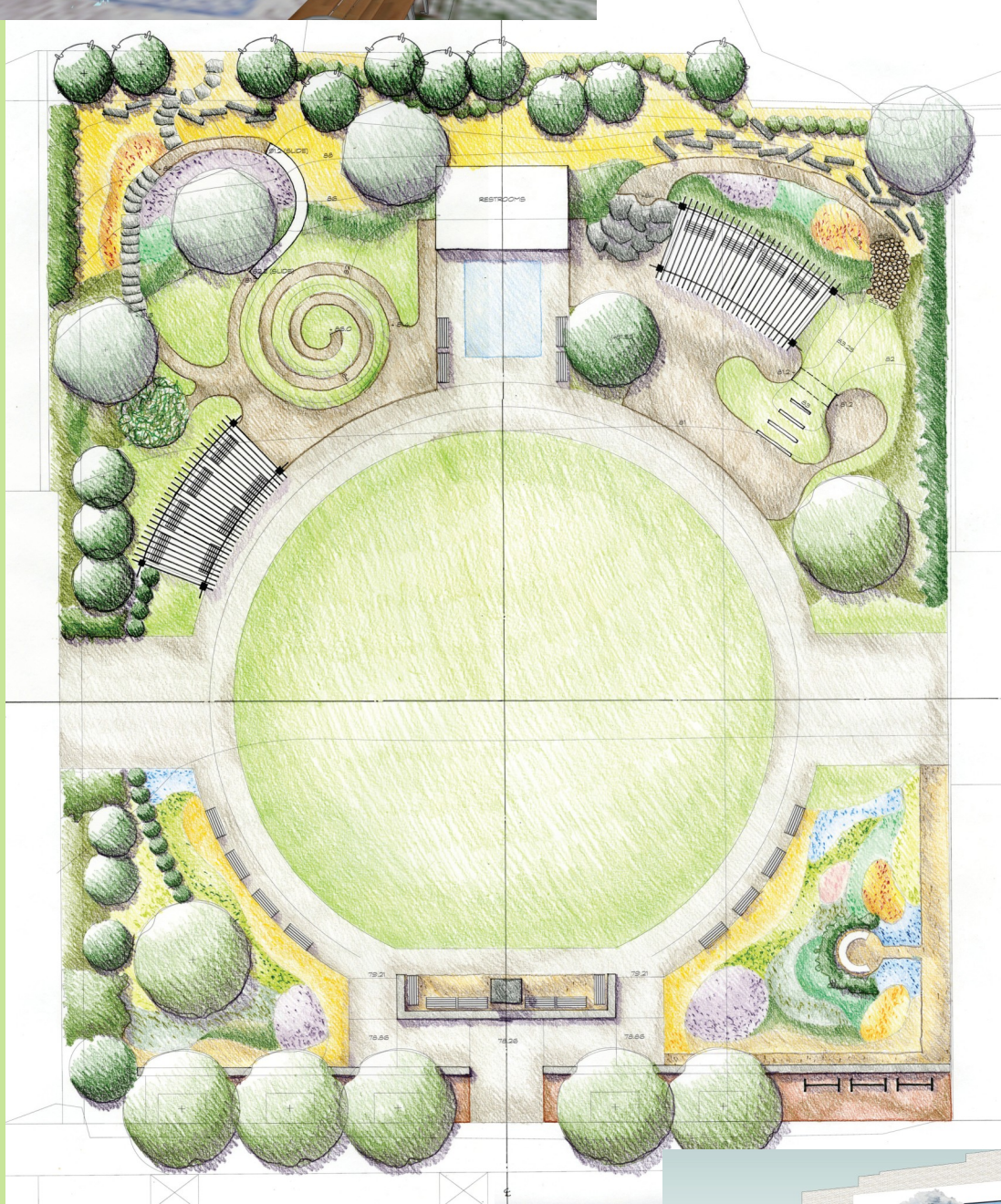
We Run Events and the Town of Abingdon would like to thank all the sponsors of this great event: Johnston Memorial Hospital, Crest Point Health, Bonefire Smokehouse Restaurant, Wolf Hills Brewing and Culligan.



**Wanna receive e-mail updates on the low down in A-town?
Email the Abingdon Wolf Whistle– wolfwhistle@abingdon-va.gov
& “HEAR” all that is happening in Abingdon.**

Check the Town out on





GRAHAM LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



ADVANCE ABINGDON AND TOWN PARTNER TO RE-DEVELOP PARK

Advance Abingdon, Abingdon's Main Street Organization, has partnered with the Town to revision and redevelop the only Town-owned park along Main Street, located across from the U.S. Post Office. The makeover is a project initiated by the Advance Abingdon Design Committee. Graham Landscape Architecture, located on East Main Street was contracted for the design work and facilitated the public meetings.



Highlights!

- Park organized around a central open lawn that can be used for various community events
- Active and passive recreational opportunities are balanced throughout the park
- Restrooms, interactive fountain and natural play structures anchor the rear portion of the park
- Enhanced streetscape along Main Street includes ample seating and lush plantings
- Park incorporates sustainable design principles such as a green roof on the restroom, pervious paving and native plantings that reduce the need for irrigation and provide wildlife habitat

Park Name Contest

This particular park is called by many names, but doesn't have one of its own. In addition to the proposed makeover, names were taken at two public design meetings and will be circulated by electronic survey.

TOWN CELEBRATES ARBOR DAY WITH STUDENTS



Each year, Town Arborist, Kevin Sigmon and the Town Tree Commission, plant a new tree in commemoration of Arbor Day, at one of three Abingdon feeder elementary schools or at E.B. Stanley Middle School. This year, on April 17th, Town Officials and students planted a Brandywine Red Maple on the front lawn of E.B. Stanley Middle. In addition to the brief lesson on caring for trees, those in attendance were entertained by the middle school jazz band and each student was given a sourwood tree to plant at their homes.



Kevin Sigmon, Town Arborist, and Oliver Craughwell, Abingdon Tree Commission, assist E. B. Stanley Middle School students with planting the 2012 Arbor Day Tree on their Campus

You're Invited!!!

**The Abingdon and District Town Twinning Society of England
Cordially Invites The Citizens of the
Town of Abingdon, Virginia
To Join the Citizens of the Town of Abingdon, England**



**In Celebrating the
Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II
June 2nd - 5th, 2012**

For more information on the events:

[http://www.visitoxfordandoxfordshire.com/thedms.aspx?
dms=13&feature=1027&venue=2932061](http://www.visitoxfordandoxfordshire.com/thedms.aspx?dms=13&feature=1027&venue=2932061)

-Travel is to be arranged by each individual-

**For additional information and to arrange lodging plans with a host
family, please contact:**

Garrett Jackson, Assistant Town Manager
gjackson@abingdon-va.gov (Subject line: "Abingdon, England")

What Public Works has “In the Works” – Clean and Green

Clean ...

As we get older, our doctors tell us we need to focus on keeping our circulation system clean. Well, the Town’s Bridge Inspection “doctors” diagnosed that a few of the concrete box culverts that carry the Town’s creeks under our roadways had become partially blocked with years of accumulated silt.

Beginning in February, Town Public Works staff has been getting deep, literally, into removing the packed, wet sediment from the barrels of the culverts. Using a bucket brigade of equipment suited for working in tight conditions, the silt is first scooped and pushed out of a barrel by a walk-behind mini track loader. It is then picked up by a small excavator, and either loaded into a skid steer loader, or a dump truck, for disposal on a nearby slope, or in the Town’s topsoil stockpile for use elsewhere. The creek channel near the box culvert is then restored to its original condition, and grass seed and riprap is used to protect the creek bank from erosion. The patients, er, I mean box culverts, are expected to make a full recovery and flow more freely for years to come.



Thanks to: Thad Finney, Charlie Lawrence, Jerry Rowe, Claude Mathis, and Daniel Gregory for their work on this project.



BEFORE...

AFTER...



In the Town's parking lot next to the Field-Penn House and Farmers Market Pavilion, Public Works staff has recently constructed tree planting areas with connecting root paths.

When completed with trees and smaller landscaping, the parking lot will not only be more attractive visually, but the landscaped areas will also absorb and filter some of the stormwater runoff from the paved area, preventing oil and other contaminants from flowing into the storm drain system and eventually to local creeks.

Town Arborist Kevin Sigmon has chosen Persian Ironwood, Shantung Maple, and Frontier Elm as the tree species to go in the eight tree wells. Thanks to Dennis Widener, Charlie Lawrence, Brian Reed, Jerry Rowe, and Elmo Warner for their work on this project.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 1st
Town Council Elections @
Town Hall
133 West Main Street

May 7th
Town Council Meeting
7:30 PM
Town Hall
133 West Main Street

May 26th
Plumb Alley Day
Events all day...music in the
evening!

May 27th
Picnic in the Park
Veterans Memorial Park
1-4pm
Bring a chair, and celebrate
Memorial Day in the Park

May 28th
Memorial Day
Town Offices
CLOSED

May 29th
Town Planning Commission
5:30 PM
Town Hall
133 West Main Street

June 2nd
National Trails Day
Events at the Muster
Grounds!

June 4th
Town Council Meeting
7:30 PM
Town Hall
133 West Main Street

June 25th
Town Planning Commission
5:30 PM
Town Hall
133 West Main Street